Dear Miss C.,

Your pleasant letter of the 10th was rec’d by yesterday’s mail, and I hasten to respond. Since I last wrote, your humble correspondent has been on the tramp after the universal Yankee, much to the [disarrangement] of his own plans of a speedy visit home, to say nothing of several valuable articles of clothing that “went up the spout” during the trip. An outline of the march may not prove uninteresting. Orders to prepare three days’ rations came on the 6th. We marched on the 8th, crossing the Rapidan below Liberty Mills, and advanced towards Madison C.H. Certain unmistakable signs indicated our position after a few days march to be on the right flank of the enemy. Ewell had crossed in the meantime, advancing toward Culpepper CH. The enemy “smelt a mice” and essayed a crawfish movement. We pursued, but the swift-footed Yank left us in the rear. Our corps continued on the flank, marching a la Jackson, through marshes over hill, and in wood, overtaking the enemy’s rear guard at Bristow’s Station, four miles from Manassas. Here comes the record of a shamefully mismanaged affair, which reflects much discredit upon Maj. Gen. Heth, who commanded the front division of the 3rd Corps. He hurried into the fight two Brigades of North Carolinians, whom the enemy entrapped, and upon whom was inflicted a severe loss. One of our batteries was captured by the retreating foe, its support being confused. Our Brigade was double-quicked two miles, but the Yanks were then safe on their way to Manassas. We left the next day, tearing up in our way the Orange & Alexandria Rail Road from Bristow to Rappahannock Station. Stuart pressed the enemy vigorously, and administered several good thrashings to his cavalry. He captured probably 3000 prisoners.

We are now within eight miles of Culpepper C.H., and things seem quiet, although the enemy’s cavalry picket 1 ½ miles north of the Rappahannock River. It is also reported that Meade occupies Warrenton in some force. I cannot say what Lee’s object is at present. We may take up again the Rapidan Line, or may occupy the present one. The victory just achieved is not the less a victory tho’ a bloodless one, as the enemy was flanked out of his stronghold on Cedar Mountain. ---- There has been a rumor that Bragg will be reinforced by our Division but it is simply a “camp dispatch”, and lacks the authority to excite belief. Your visit to Sav. must indeed have been a pleasant one. The bill of fare at the Pulaski was certainly a reminder of days long gone by. Those days were blessings we didn’t appreciate. May they soon return! May the scenes of war soon be reminiscences of the past. Oh! That the family circle be reunited soon by the missing links, and gentle peace reestablish her fallen throne. In this dread hour, away with figures of speech—and let us ask Him who ruleth all, to stay the bloodshed, and appease the wrath of our implacable enemy.

Excuse this hasty letter. Present my regards to Miss M. Write soon, and oblige

Yours truly,

Eugene S. Mitchell